Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 6 with the following:

The process of transformation of the source parameter signal may be accomplished by a variety of methods. In one embodiment of a parameter concealment apparatus according to the present invention. ~~The~~, the source parameter signal is transformed by being encrypted to generate the parameter signal transmitted from the first device to the second device. The inverse transformation applied to the parameter signal by the second device is then a decryption process. In another embodiment of a parameter concealment apparatus according to the present invention, the parameter signal is transformed by using hashing functions. In another embodiment of a parameter concealment apparatus according to the present invention, the parameter signal is transformed by partitioning the source parameter into parameter fragments and transmitting the parameter fragments. Any transformation in conjunction with an appropriate inverse transformation may be used to conceal the source parameter signal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 23 with the following:

In one embodiment of a parameter concealment apparatus according to the present invention, the control signals and the

parameter signals are transmitted through the same communications channel.